



ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Declaration by the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals

Mr Louis Michel and Mr Musikari Kombo, Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), call on the international community to continue its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The Co-Presidents welcome the progress made at the global level, but insist that special attention should be paid to the most marginalised communities.

The Co-Presidents are particularly concerned by the use of the economic and financial crisis as a pretext to undermine the efforts of EU Member States to contribute to the MDGs. Furthermore, they insist that budget cuts planned under the current negotiations of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) should not deflect resources from the goal of poverty eradication.

Achieving the MDGs must remain a key objective of the EU and it must be reaffirmed unambiguously as the overarching framework of EU development policy. These efforts should also be clearly reflected in all other relevant policies of the EU, particularly its trade policy.

The Co-Presidents believe that attaining the MDGs requires a global concerted effort. Both the donor community and partner countries should tackle the roots of poverty in order to achieve sustainable development. Further efforts in areas such as democracy, human rights and governance are of key importance in order to create an enabling environment to achieve better results.

The Co-Presidents recalled that the MDGs would remain high on the agenda of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as shown by the adoption, at the 24th Session, of a resolution on "The importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and the achievement of the MDGs".